

BLISSFIELD

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Village of Blissfield, 408 E. Adrian St., P.O. Box 129, Blissfield, MI 49228

AUGUST 2010

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Recycling

The Village's drop-off recycling center in the Bachmayer Parking Lot has been closed since July 1. Allied Waste, who up to that time had been serving the center for free, decided to start charging the Village about \$10,000 a year to continue the service. Council decided it was time to begin looking at other recycling options.

We are in the process of taking bids for curbside recycling for Village residents. The service would include curbside recycling every other week, with residents using rolling recycling containers. The service would not require sorting, and would take such materials as paper, cardboard, glass bottles, plastics, metal cans, plastic bags, etc. The estimated cost of \$3 - \$5/month would be passed on to residents, and the service will be provided on a voluntary basis.

If we do offer this service, it would start about October 1. If we decide against the service, we will investigate other options for recycling service for residents.

Local Historic District Study Committee

At the recommendation of the Village's Planning Commission, the Village Council is asking for volunteers to serve on a committee that will study the possibility of a local historic district in our downtown area. We would prefer that interested individuals have some interest or expertise in the downtown area, including owning a business or property, having architecture education or experience (particularly historical architecture), or having an interest in the history of our downtown and its buildings.

We already have 6 people who have volunteered, and we are looking for more. If you would be interested, please let Jim Wonacott (at the Village Office) know (517-486-4347, or administrator@blissfieldmichigan.gov).

US223 Transportation Enhancement Grant and Project

The Village, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), has submitted a Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant application for a streetscape and enhancement project along the US223 corridor here in Blissfield. Planned improvements would include such things as decorative crosswalks and sidewalks, planters, decorative plantings, street trees, benches and other pedestrian features, signage, decorative streetlights, and other such improvements.

This project, planned for 2011 construction (if the State solves its transportation funding issues), should help to improve safety along US223 in the Village by providing visual cues to drivers to reduce their speeds, and by making pedestrians feel more safe and secure. The project should also improve the look and appearance of the corridor. Both of these goals should help make Blissfield a better place.

The Village is just about finished working with MDOT and their consultants to develop plans for the project. We hope to have the plans developed enough for MDOT to hold a public meeting on the project in the near future. Watch the Blissfield Advance for details of that meeting.

2010 Taxes

A reminder – the 2010 Village taxes are due September 14, 2010. The Village taxes (14.2215 mills this year – the same as the last three years) are payable at the Village Office (408 E. Adrian St.) until September 14. Beginning September 15, they can only be paid at the County Courthouse in Adrian. Taxes paid after September 14 will have interest and penalties assessed as well.

Also, you should have received another tax statement this summer, containing the state education tax and the County tax. Remember to pay this tax bill at the Township Office, on S. Lane St. downtown. We cannot take these payments at the Village Office.

Village Office Holiday Closing

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Village Office, Library, and Department of Public Works will be closed for business on Monday, September 6.

Old Home Canning Property

The Village now owns and has possession of the 37-acre former Home Canning property at Jefferson St. and US223. We are in the process of determining how best to address the buildings on the property. Once that has been completed, we will discuss how best to use the property in the future (i.e., as a business or industrial park, etc.).

The Village partnered with 3 LLCs to make this project happen. They include GLBKLB, Farver Investments, and Blissfield Industrial Properties, all of whom contributed funds for the project. They did so with no guarantee of any return, so the Village very much appreciates their community spirit in making this project happen.

We have heard that some individuals were disappointed that they weren't able to take part in this project. There is still time to do so, as all funds for the project can be used for demolition, as well as the actual purchase of the property. Anyone still interested in this project should contact Jim Wonacott at the Village Office (517-486-4347, or administrator@blissfieldmichigan.gov) – he will be happy to discuss terms that are identical to the other contributors.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Gail Giles Swimming Pool

As you may know, the Gail Giles Pool has been open for business since Memorial Day weekend. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end (at least, for the season). The last day of the pool season will be Saturday, August 28, which will be another free day to pool patrons. We have had yet another good season this year, thanks to great lifeguards and wonderful patrons. Watch the May 2011 Village Newsletter for details on the 2011 pool season.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat

This year, Halloween trick-or-treat will be on Saturday, October 30, from 5:30 pm through 7:00 pm. Following trick-or-treat, the Blissfield Rotary Club should be having their annual Halloween parade and bonfire in Ellis Park.

New Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

Council recently appointed 2 new residents to our Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Please welcome Cassandra Todd and Margaret Wyman as they take their place on the Board. They both plan to help improve our already high-quality parks and recreation facilities and programs. They should certainly prove to be assets on the board.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) NEWS

Main Street

For several years, the DDA and the Village have been involved in the Associate level of the Michigan Main Street program. This year we decided to apply for the next level, which is the Select level. The application for this level was quite lengthy and took many hours of preparation and research by many people in the community. Then 18 people (citizens, business owners, and DDA/Council members) took part in the 45 minute presentation before the Main Street Advisory Committee in Lansing. If you haven't heard by now, we have been chosen for the Select level of Michigan Main Street. It is an honor to be chosen on the first try for this level. I would like to say "Thank You" to all who were involved in the application in one way or another – A job well done!

The next steps in the process are for the DDA, who will act as our Main Street Board, to develop a job description for the Main Street Director (done!) and then hire one. The 4 committees of Main Street program (promotion, design, economic development, and organization) will also be formed over the next several weeks. If you would be interested in serving on one of the 4 committees, please let Jim Wonacott at the Village Office know (517-486-4347, or administrator@blissfieldmichigan.gov). Blissfield will benefit greatly by being in this program. Thank you once again to all who had helped with the application process.

Yuletide

The DDA is again sponsoring the Yuletide celebration this year. The committee has already met and is planning several activities for November and December. "Blissfield Yuletide – A Season of Bliss" will be November 12, 13, and 14 and will feature many of the favorite events including the Santa parade and Christmas Tree lighting, craft show at the school, and shopping. Watch for additional events and information as the time draws nearer. The "Celebration of Trains", which was so popular last year, will be on Saturday & Sunday, December 11 & 12 with additional displays and locations. Breakfast with Santa will be hosted by Emilio's this year and will take place on Saturday, December 12. The annual Parade of Lights will also be on Dec 12th at 6 pm. If you would like to help with any part of the yuletide celebration, please contact Debbie Royal at 517-486-4351.

Art at Your Feet

The second annual Art at Your Feet is scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, September 11 & 12 from 9am – 5pm. This year the event has been expanded in scope and size. The main block of downtown on Lane Street will again be temporarily transformed with street murals. There will also be a section for "young artists" along Jefferson Street between the parking lots (Newspaper Street & Pearl Street lots). New this year will be artist vendors along Lane & Jefferson Streets which will allow artists to show and sell their work. The artist demonstrations that were popular last year will return again this year in participating downtown businesses. The time for the demonstrations will be Saturday only 10am – 2pm. The event is free to the public.

The committee is continuing to accept artists for all aspects of the event. There is no fee for street artists or demonstrating artists. Artists wanting to sell their art will be charged \$25 for a 10'x10' space. If you are interested in participating as an artist, contact us before August 15th at artatyourfeet@gmail.com or by calling Carol at 517-447-3007 or Peg at 517-486-4308.

New Board-member

Council recently appointed a new Board-member to our DDA. Please welcome Darlene Southward as she takes her place on the Board. She plans to help the Village and the DDA implement our Main Street program, and should be an asset on the DDA board.

Car and Bike shows

Be sure to attend the last 2 car and bike shows downtown. They are Aug. 12th and Sept. 9th. Come downtown and enjoy the fun!

Lynn H. Southward
DDA Board Chairman

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS CALL 486-4347

SCHULTZ-HOLMES MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Mark your calendar! On Saturday, March 12, 2011, the Library will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. The Schultz-Holmes Memorial Library was established as a Village Library in 1936. In January of 1936, a petition of Village resident voters calling for a vote on a millage to establish "a free and public library in the Village of Blissfield" was presented to the Village Council. The election date was March 9, 1936 and the measure passed 154-65. In the midst of the great depression, the people of our Village voted for a millage that funded our library!

In 1956, the Schultz-Holmes Memorial Library was dedicated in the current location. The move was made possible by a bequest from the estate of Martha Schultz. Mrs. Schultz and her late husband Fred designated that their combined estate be given for the construction of a library and a community room in memory of their only daughter Erma, her husband Harold Holmes, and their son Fritz, all of whom had died in a tragic boating accident on Lake Superior in 1947. Our history is quite rich, and our locations were many, but the end result is what we are proud to call our Village Library, a library that is honored to serve our patrons throughout southeast Lenawee County.

Now we have a request for you: Aside from your presence at our celebration, we would ask that you share your memories of the Library with us. If you have any photos from our history - perhaps the construction of the building, or photos of the library at any of its other locations; or just a written memory that you would like to share, we would love to include these. If you have worked at the Library or served on the Board, we would also like to recognize your service to our community at the party as well. Bring any of these items to the front desk over the next six months so that we can consider them for use in the celebration. Hope to see you there Saturday, March 12, 2011, from 1 – 4 pm. It promises to be quite the party.

Sarah Mason
Recording Secretary
SHML

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS CALL 486-4347

POLICE NEWS



New Police Officer

You may have noticed a new face in a Blissfield Police uniform or had a chance to meet our new part-time officer. Officer Richard Dover was added to the force to assist when we have a shortage of officers, to meet our goal of 24/7 coverage. He started working here May 12. Officer Dover completed his police training at the Washtenaw Community College in 2008 and graduated with honors from Siena Heights University in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree.

Officer Dover was raised in the Tipton area of Lenawee County and likes the idea of policing in a small town. In addition to working part-time in Blissfield, Officer Dover works as a part-time officer for the City of Morenci. He has been a very good officer to work with and I hope you have a chance to meet him.

River Raisin Festival

Another River Raisin Festival has come and gone. The festival weekend is always a very busy time for the Blissfield Police Department. With the arrival of so many people and cars there is always extra work. On Friday night, an officer is posted at both major intersections for traffic control after the fireworks. Traffic moved slowly but we did not have any crashes. We did investigate a minor crash in Bachmayer Park between a 4-wheeler and a vendor's car on Friday afternoon.

People often ask if we have trouble from the beer tent. Two officers are given the special assignment of concentrating their time near the tent for prevention. Several people were asked to leave when tempers flared but no one was arrested at the park. However, a Deerfield man was arrested for "Disorderly Person" at 3:25am Saturday morning in the 100 block of W. Adrian St. At 4:30am Saturday morning someone threw a bag of garbage thru a door glass on Depot Street.

The parade on Saturday had perfect weather and also brought a lot of people to Blissfield. The Adrian Police Explorer group helped us manage the traffic for the parade. There were no problems to report from the parade. A resident in the 200 block of S. Lane St. did report that the mirror on his vehicle was twisted by someone during the late afternoon on Saturday.

On Sunday morning a resident from Pearl St reported damage to the interior of his boat from fireworks hot embers.

During the festival, the Lenawee County Sheriff Office brings their Mobile Command Unit. Three of the LCSO Reserve Officers volunteered their time to be on the grounds (you may have recognized Ted Smith from Blissfield). The Blissfield PD provides literature, gun locks, lollipops and stickers to distribute to the festival goers.

All the events of the festival highlight small town America at its finest. I think the people in Blissfield can be proud of how smoothly an event of this size happens with very few problems. Thank you to all the people who made it happen.

Jane M. Kelley
Police Chief

VILLAGE SERVICES

Fall Leaf Collection

By the time the next newsletter comes out in November, we will have started our fall leaf collection program. Due to leaf pick-up, there will be no brush collection in November. We will start leaf pick-up in late October, with the following schedule:

- a. Monday, Tuesday: East of River, South of US223.
- b. Wednesday: East of River, north of US223.
- c. Thursday: West of River, north of US223.
- d. Friday: West of River, south of US223.

Brush Pick-up

Our twice-monthly brush pick-up will continue through the end of October, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. The pick-up dates until then are September 14 and 28, and October 12 and 26. There will be no brush pick-up in November due to leaf pick-up).

While the situation has improved, residents are still putting brush put out to the street too early. Our brush pick-up ordinance states that brush may not be put out until the weekend immediately prior to the scheduled pick-up date. A few residents are placing their brush out as early as the day after pick-up dates, so brush sits at the street for up to 3 weeks. Due to nuisance concerns and aesthetic issues, this is not permitted by our brush pick-up ordinance. Please do not place your brush out until the weekend prior to the pick-up dates. We don't want to enforce this clause in the ordinance; however we will with those residents who violate it. So please do your part to abide by these simple rules.

Street Sweeping

Our street sweeping schedule is working out very well again this year. Street sweeping is done between 4am and 7am on the following scheduled days:

- a. Monday, Tuesday: East of River, South of US223.
- b. Wednesday: East of River, north of US223.
- c. Thursday: West of River, north of US223.
- d. Friday: West of River, south of US223.

As a reminder when you mow your lawn, please do not mow or blow your grass into the street or the gutter, and leave them there. This is not good for our storm drain system. Please sweep them up or blow them back into your yard – you'll help our storm sewer system work more efficiently.

Mosquito Spraying

We still have another month or so of mosquito spraying left this season – we usually end our spraying program in mid- or late September. We have been adjusting our spray dosages to meet the situation each week. We also kept up with our larvicide application program. Except for early in the season, our efforts seem to have paid off.

Sidewalk Repair & Replacement

The Village is in the middle of its annual sidewalk repair and replacement project. Each spring, Village DPW personnel inspect the Village's sidewalks, and mark for repair the sections that need it (according to our criteria). Then, we bid the project out, and award it to a contractor. In June, the Village awarded this year's sidewalk work to Al Smith Concrete, from Blissfield. The project should be done by mid-September, and the Village is paying for these repairs. Please bear with us as we have this project done. Sections of sidewalk will be temporarily closed while they are repaired. We apologize for any inconvenience it may cause. The end result will be worth the trouble.

Street Resurfacing

Later in August, the Village will be resurfacing a few streets in town. These streets will include Cherry Street (Giles Ave. to Depot St.), High Street (Quick St. east to US223), and Washington St. (Pearl St. to the Ellis Park entrance). We will also be resurfacing the Village Office parking lot and adding pavement to the Parkwood St. alley. Please excuse any inconveniences these projects may cause.

VILLAGE SERVICES (continued)

Water Plant Improvements

The Village is still working on a project at the water treatment plant. The sludge (mostly river sediment and water treatment chemical residue) that the water plant generates in making good clean drinking water for the Village is currently pumped to the Village's wastewater (sewer) treatment plant for processing. With water demand up and changes in chemicals to prepare for regulation changes, this means that the amount of sludge sent to the wastewater plant is up, and it is having a negative effect on the wastewater plant.

We are working with an engineer to design sludge processing equipment (and an updated auxiliary power generator) that would be installed at the water plant. We are looking at paying for the estimated \$1,500,000 price tag of the project with a combination of USDA grants and low-interest loans, as well as "Build America" interest-rebate bonds that are part of the federal stimulus package. These should all make the project as affordable as possible, with as few loans/bonds as needed and very low interest rates on those that are.

If all goes as planned, construction is slated for the 2011 construction season.

Water Plant Consumers' Confidence Report

The water plant's required annual Consumers' Confidence Report (CCR) is now available for the 2009 calendar year. The report outlines how the plant operated in 2009, and how well it met state and federal drinking water guidelines (we had no violations of any kind). It was included in the June 30 edition of the Blissfield Advance. It can also be viewed at the Village's website (www.blissfieldmichigan.gov), or a copy can be obtained from the Village Office.

*** THE BIG PICTURE ***

Village Board Meeting Schedules (All Boards meet at the Blissfield Library)

Village Council	7pm	September 13 and 27 October 11 and 25 November 8 and 22
Village Council Committee	7pm	September 20 October 18 November 15
Planning Commission	7pm	September 7 (Tuesday) October 4 November 1
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)	7pm	September 8 October 13 November 10
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	7pm	September 9 October 14 November 11
Library Board	5pm	September 16 October 21 November 18